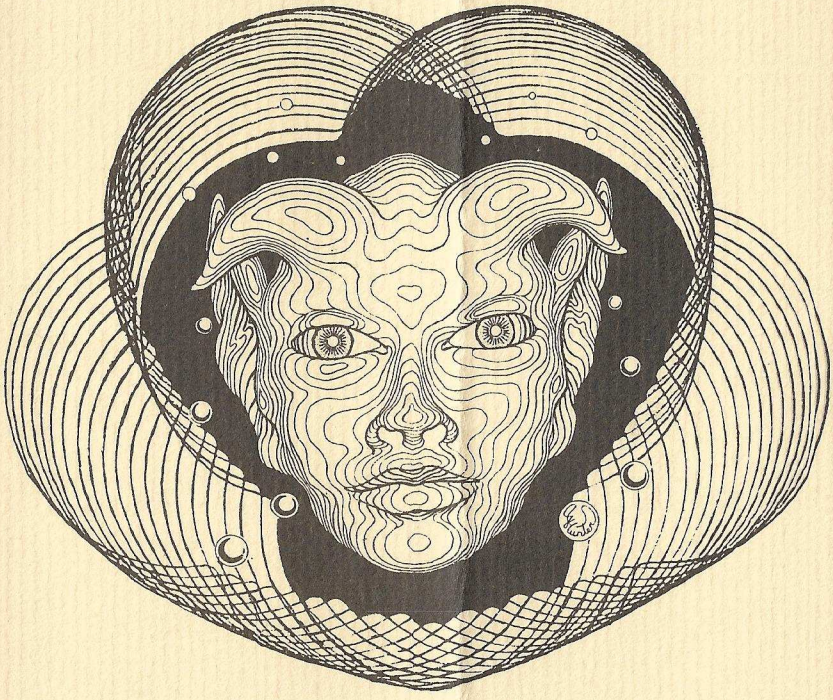
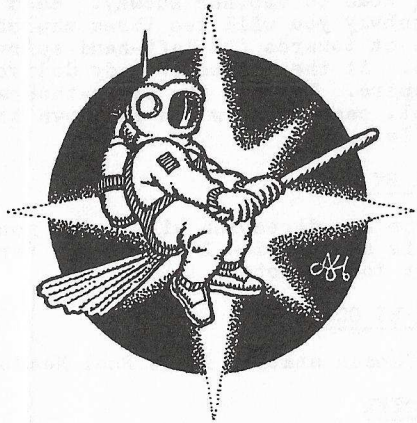
NOVACON 16

31 Oct – 2 Nov '86
De Vere Hotel
Coventry



PROGRESS REPORT 3

NOVACON 16



31st October - 2nd November 1986

GUEST OF HONOUR: TED TUBB

SPECIAL GUEST: CHRIS EVANS

HOTEL: The De Vere Hotel
Fairfax Street
Coventry
CV1 5RP

Telephone 0203-51851
Telex 31380

REGISTRATION:

£8.00 before the convention or £10.00 at the door. Send to Graham Poole, 86 Berwood Farm Road, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B72 1AG. Make cheques payable to NOVACON 16.

COMMITTEE:

Tony Berry (Chairman); Graham Poole (Treasurer); Nick Mills (Films); Roger G.Peyton (Book Room and Advertising); Maureen Porter (Programme): Darroll Pardoe and Rosemary Pardoe (Publications).

Booking

If you haven't already returned your Booking Form, then in your own interest we advise you to do so as soon as possible. Send the completed form to Graham Poole (address above), NOT to the hotel.

Getting There

Enclosed with this Progress Report is a form for cheap train tickets to the convention. Return this to the Theatre & Concert Rail Club, NOT to us or to British Rail. Please note that this year the tickets will be subject to the restrictions applying to Saver Tickets - choose your train accordingly.

ARRIVING BY TRAIN

Trains from London leave from Euston Station. Trains to Coventry from all destinations arrive at Coventry B.R. station, which is about a mile from the hotel. Take a no.17 or no.27 bus to Pool Meadow bus station, which is opposite the hotel. Or use a taxi, which will cost about £1.50. If you wish to walk (not recommended after dark), leave the station and turn right, out of the station square. In front of you is a subway. Follow the signs to the City Centre. Out of the subway, turn right across

the Ring Road to another subway. Head for the City Centre again. Out of the subway you will see three church spires ahead of you. Head straight on towards the left-hand spire up Hertford Street Pedestrian Precinct. At the statue of Lady Godiva, turn right and head for the centre spire. This is the old cathedral. Walk round the front of the cathedral, past the new one and down the hill. The De Vere Hotel is on your left.

ARRIVING BY CAR

Roads from any direction will bring you on to the Coventry Ring Road. Leave this at Junction 2 for the De Vere. There is a long-stay car park next to the hotel.

ARRIVING BY COACH

The main coach station is at Pool Meadow, right opposite the hotel.

AT THE HOTEL

As you enter the foyer from the street, Hotel Registration is on your left. The convention registration desk will be set up adjacent to it. If you arrive after the convention desk is closed please find a member of the committee and ask to be registered - the convention bars will not serve you unless you are wearing a badge.

On the right as you enter the foyer is the hotel porter's desk, where luggage can be deposited and keys picked up.

Food

Cheap food will be available in the Three Spires Restaurant on a similar basis to last year. A list of places to eat in Coventry will appear in the Programme Book.

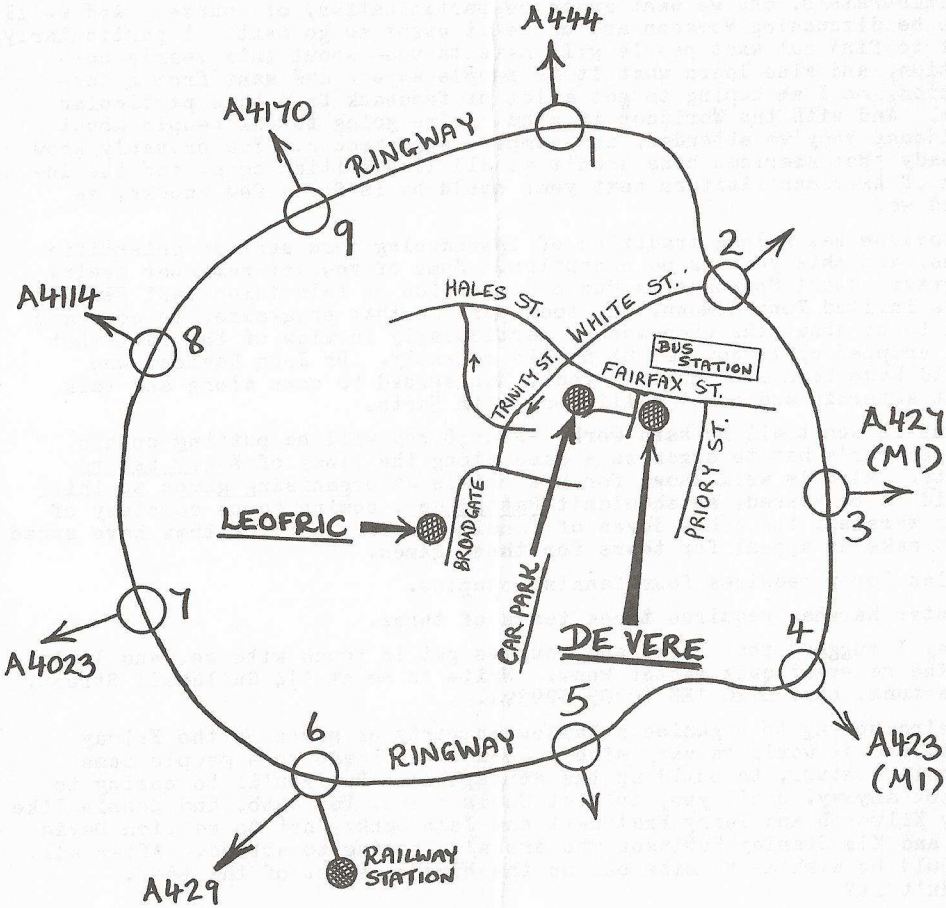
Art Show

Marsha Jones is now organising the Art Show. Contact her at 9 Cecil Road, Prenton, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 9PF. This year the Art Show and Book Room will be in the Fairfax Suite.

Gophers

If you'd like to volunteer to act as a gopher, please contact Tony Berry, 567 Holyhead Road, Coventry, West Midlands CV5 8HW.

COVENTRY


A444
A4170
RINGWAY
1
9
2
A4114
8
HALES ST.
WHITE ST.
BUS STATION
TRINITY ST.
FAIRFAX ST.
A427 (M1)
PRIORY ST.
3
LEOFRIC
BROADGATE
CAR PARK
DE VERE
7
4
A4023
5
6
RINGWAY
A423 (M1)
RAILWAY STATION
A429

PROGRAMME

I'm delighted to announce that we have more or less got the programme into shape now, and if I say so myself it is going to be very interesting. We've settled for two streams of reasonably intensive programmes, and I think there should be something to please everyone. Obviously, Ted Tubb and Chris Evans will be giving speeches, but we're also hoping to talk to Ted about his fannish experiences. For example, did you know that he was instrumental in setting up the BSFA back in the 1950s? We're also hoping to have a panel exploring the 'cyberpunk' phenomenon and whether it really exists outside the publishers' blurb, and we'll hopefully be asking some new writers to take a look back at some classic SF and see whether it has any relevance to modern SF writing.

What else? Well, there's been a lot of debate recently about whether we really need awards - the BSFA Award, the Nova, the Hugo and so on - so we want to discuss this in greater depth with award winners and award administrators, and we want audience participation, of course. And we'll also be discussing Novacon and where it ought to go next. I particularly want to find out what people will have thought about this year's convention, and also learn what it is people expect and want from a convention, so I am hoping to get a lot of feedback from this particular item. And with the Worldcon in mind, we're going to ask people about Worldcons they've attended, and compare experiences. You probably know already that American cons aren't at all like British cons, and the influx of American visitors next year could be in for a few shocks, as could we.

Novacon has a long tradition of introducing more serious scientific items, and this year is no exception. Some of you may remember seeing a programme about Spontaneous Human Combustion on television last year. We've invited Tony McMunn, who took part in that programme, to come and talk to us about the phenomenon, particularly in view of the fact that it's cropped up in several SF novels recently. Dr John Davies, who should have been with us last year, has agreed to come along and talk about asteroid and comet collisions with Earth.

But it won't all be hard work. Alan Dorey will be putting on his quiz master's hat to organise a game along the lines of Every Second Counts. Alan is well known for his skills at organising games so this shouldn't be missed, as shouldn't Pathfinder, coming to us courtesy of Peter Wareham, the other doyen of fannish games. Both of them have asked me to make an appeal for teams for these games.

Alan Dorey requires four fannish couples.

Peter Wareham requires three teams of three.

May I suggest that teams and couples get in touch with me, and I'll let the relevant quiz master know. Write to me at 114 Guildhall Street, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1ES (0303-52939).

We're hoping to organise a Halloween party of sorts on the Friday night, and it would be very nice indeed if at least some people came along in costume, to build up the atmosphere. But you'll be coming to Novacon anyway, won't you, to meet Chris Evans, Ted Tubb, and people like Garry Kilworth and Terry Pratchett and Iain Banks, not to mention David Brin and Kim Stanley Robinson who are also hoping to attend. After all, it would be a shame to miss out on the biggest event of the year, wouldn't it?

Maureen Porter

FILMS

Arranged just in time to miss the last PR, we have obtained a very interesting selection of films to show at the convention. Topping the bill we have REPO MAN, a movie which gained much critical acclaim when it was released last year. Possibly of even greater interest is BORN IN FLAMES, an award winning feminist film which those of you who were at Mexicon will have heard about but not seen. For some less intellectually demanding relaxation we have MORONS FROM OUTER SPACE with Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones, and for those young at heart DOUGAL AND THE BLUE CAT. There's a good selection of horror for Halloween - Roger Corman's LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS; a short film from Ireland, A CHILD'S VOICE; and a chance to reappraise Hammer horror with BRIDES OF DRACULA.

In addition we have some really good short films, with THE UNLIMITED DREAM COMPANY - a portrait of J.G. Ballard and his work - and a compilation of the films of Georges Méliès, one of the earliest of all science fiction film makers.

Plus cartoons from around the world including a Yugoslavian version of MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH and the award winning FLATLAND, an adaptation of Edwin A. Abbot's story of the inhabitants of a two-dimensional universe.

Whatever your interests there should be something here to intrigue, stimulate or amuse you.

Nick Mills

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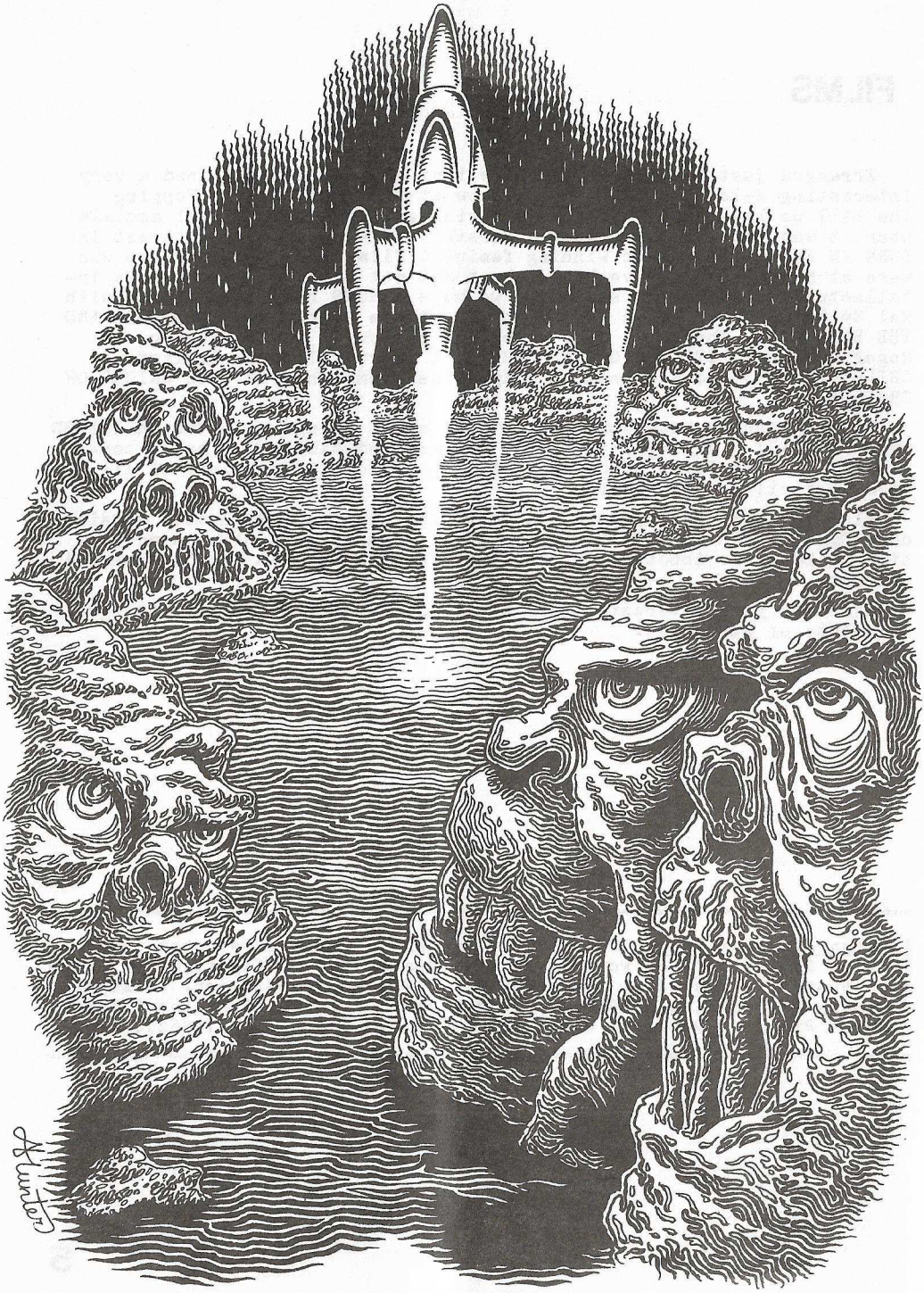

THE NOVA AWARDS

The NOVA is an award for fanzines produced by science fiction fandom in the British Isles. Started in 1973 by the late Gillon Field and presented annually at the Birmingham Science Fiction Group's Novacon, the NOVA was, until 1981, given to the editor of the fanzine voted 'Best of the Year'. From 1973 to 1976 the NOVA winner was decided by a select panel of judges chosen for their knowledge of fandom; in order of appearance these were: Jim Linwood, Phil Rogers, Ina Shorrock, Andrew Stephenson, Greg Pickersgill, Keith Walker, Malcolm Edwards, Peter Roberts, Gray Boak, Leroy Kettle, Mike Meara, Dave Rowe and Ian Williams.

But in 1977, whilst the Novacon committee persuaded the ultra select NOVA committee that a more democratic system would be more appropriate, an inebriated Stan Eling persuaded an even more inebriated Dave Langford to draw up a set of rules to govern the new democratic system. The result of all this was, in Kev Smith's words, "the three volume presentation set of NOVA Award rules with the seven appendices". These rules provide for an Administrator (responsible for printing and distributing the ballot forms) and a Committee (who are responsible for assessing the eligibility of votes cast and counting them). Previous Administrators to date: Liese Hoare, Coral Jackson, Dave Langford and Paul Vincent. NOVA committee members: Rob Jackson, Greg Pickersgill, Dave Langford, Joseph Nicholas, Harry Bell, Eve Harvey and Owen Whiteoak. The only other major change to the NOVA came in 1981, again by request of the Novacon committee, when it was decided to extend the NOVA to include two additional categories - 'Best Fanwriter' and 'Best Fanartist'.

The fundamental idea of the NOVA as it's been run since 1977 is that it should be awarded by informed vote. The informed votes come from informed voters, defined as Novacon members who have been active in fanzines sometime in the year or two preceding the relevant Novacon. 'Active in fanzines' is a bit harder to define, but for the sake of clarity the NOVA Award Rules state that this means having produced one or more fanzines, or having contributed articles/artwork to two or more fanzines or having had letters of comment printed in three or more different fanzines.

These criteria were not designed to be prohibitive, and even in these days of falling fanzine productivity they still allow a large proportion of Novacon members to vote. A ballot form should accompany this Progress Report. You can either send it to me before Novacon 16 or post it in the ballot box provided at the registration desk. But whatever you do,if you consider yourself to be an active fanzine fan please USE YOUR VOTE! By doing so, you will help to make the awards as representative as possible of fandom-at-large.

MARTIN TUDOR

NOVA ADMINISTRATOR

CONVENTION MEMBERSHIP

1. Ted Tubb
2. Chris Evans
3. Iris Tubb
4. Faith Brooker
5. Tony Berry
6. Graham Poole
7. Maureen Porter
8. Nick Mills
9. Rog Peyton
10. Darroll Pardoe
11. Rosemary Pardoe
12. Chris Southern
13. Jenny Southern
14. Larry van der Putte
15. Mike Westhead
16. Kathy Westhead
17. Roger Robinson
18. Roger Perkins
19. Howard Rosenblum
20. June Rosenblum
21. Dai Price
22. Vince Docherty
23. Jonathan Cowie
24. Oscar Dalgleish
25. Stephen Davies
26. Tim Illingworth
27. Owen Whiteoak
28. ½R Cruttenden
29. Wendy Cruttenden
30. Saul Bura
31. David Perkins
32. John F. Dowd
33. John Perry
34. Chris Jennings
35. Brian Ameringen
36. Caroline Mullan
37. Richard Harris
38. Jonathan C. Salmon
39. Chris Bursey
40. Phil Spencer
41. George Ternent
42. Linda Ternent
43. Chris Cheyne
44. Susie Cheyne
45. Alex Cheyne
46. Urban Gunnarsson
47. Margaret Austin
48. Martin Easterbrook
49. Malcolm Davies
50. Charles Mawdsley
51. Paul Dormer
52. Adrian Snowdon
53. Peter Mabey
54. Tony Rogers
55. John Steward
56. Pauline Morgan
57. Chris Morgan
58. M.M.Kamal Hashmi
59. Dave Thomas
60. Stan Eling
61. Helen Eling
62. Niall Gordon
63. Undepoldous (W.H.James)
64. Marcus L. Rowland
65. Simon Beresford
66. Julian Headlong
67. Dave Ellis
68. Colin Fine
69. Bernie Evans
70. Dave Holmes
71. Helen Holmes
72. Peter-Fred Thompson
73. Peter Wareham
74. Gwen Funnell
75. Peter A. Tyers
76. Colin Langeveld
77. D.M.Sherwood
78. Steve Lawson
79. Allen Boyd-Newton
80. Pauline Oliver
81. Mike Damesick
82. Paul McCarthy
83. Peter Strover
84. Rory O. McLean
85. Ye Gerbish
86. James White
87. Peggy White
88. Bruce J.H. Macdonald
89. Phil Rogers
90. Peter Cohen
91. Greg Pickersgill
92. Linda Pickersgill
93. Joyce Slater
94. Ken Slater
95. Jan Poole
96. Carlene Poole
97. David Symes
98. Fay Symes
99. Rob Jackson
100. Barbara Conway
101. Mike Ford
102. Ken Lake
103. Jan Lake
104. Alun Harries
105. Tom Taylor
106. Ann Looker
107. Paul Kincaid
108. Martin Tudor
109. Bob Shaw (real)
110. Paul Oldroyd
111. Chris Donaldson
112. Michael Hill
113. Alex Stewart
114. Moira Shearman
115. Jenny Watson
116. Phil Barnard
117. Robin Levy
118. Rowena Levy
119. Stuart Hall
120. Peter Smith

121. Ingrid Walton
122. Nicholas Walton
123. Walton Children
124. " "
125. " "
126. Peter Day
127. Mike Gray
128. Doreen Rogers
129. Phil Willis
130. Leslie Flood
131. Mike Gould
132. Jean Maudsley
133. Dave French
134. Shirley French
135. Helen McNabb
136. Mike McNabb
137. Katy McNabb
138. Adam McNabb
139. Nicola McNabb
140. Brian Aldiss
141. Eric Bentcliffe
142. Ken Bulmer
143. Alex Clarke
144. Daphne Mortimore
145. Terry Walsh
146. " "
147. Patrick Curzon
148. Nigel Robson
149. Anne Hamill
150. Jimmy Robertson
151. Mathew Irving
152. Patrick A. Lawford
153. John Dallman
154. Mike Christie
155. Chris Chivers
156. Tina Hewett
157. Chris Seller
158. Gill Seller
159. Edmund Jackson
160. Norman Shorrock
161. Peter Weston
162. Jonathan Cowie
163. Richard Brandshaft
164. Laura Wheatly
165. Vincent Clarke
166. Christina Lake
167. Charlotte Bulmer
168. Pete Gilligan
169. Simon Joukes
170. Tibs
171. Stephen Tudor
172. Pam Wells
173. John Brunner
174. Dave Hardy
175. Ron Gemmell
176. Sharon Hall
177. Bryan Hall
178. David Barrett
179. Mary Gentle
180. Garry Kilworth
181. Annette Kilworth
182. Ros Calverley
183. Chris Walton
184. Dave Langford
185. Geoff Williams
186. Rod Milner
187. T.R. Robinson
188. D.G. Gibson
189. Iain Banks
190. Martin Reed
191. Liz Burak
192. Chris Cooper
193. David Gemmell
194. Mike Moir
195. Debby Moir
196. Bob Shaw (Fake)
197. Vernon Brown
198. Martin Hoare
199. Katie Hoare
200. Mike Scott
201. David Angus
202. David Elworthy
203. Lena Sarah
204. Dave Swinden
205. Tim Smith
206. Mark Fletcher
207. Bruce Saville
208. Steve Hubbard
209. Ina Shorrock
210. Sue Harrison
211. Tim Broadribb
212. Katharine Broadribb
213. Helen Starkey
214. Ben Staveley-Taylor
215. Steve Boyce
216. T. O'Neill
217. Aidan Collard
218. Richard Edwards
219. Barbara Edwards
220. Ian Stewart
221. Juliet Eyeions
222. Jacqueline Robinson
223. Peter Pinto
224. Steve Green
225. Ann Green
226. Marsha Jones
227. Maggie Pinfold
228. Philip James Grove
229. Stephen Rothman
230. Martin Smith
231. Les Flood
232. S.H. Redburn
233. Peter Colley
234. Mike Scantlebury
235. Graham Stokes
236. John Sheppey
237. Sue Moss
238. Dave Fussell
239. Helen Hancock
240. Terry Pratchett

(list complete to 6/9/86)

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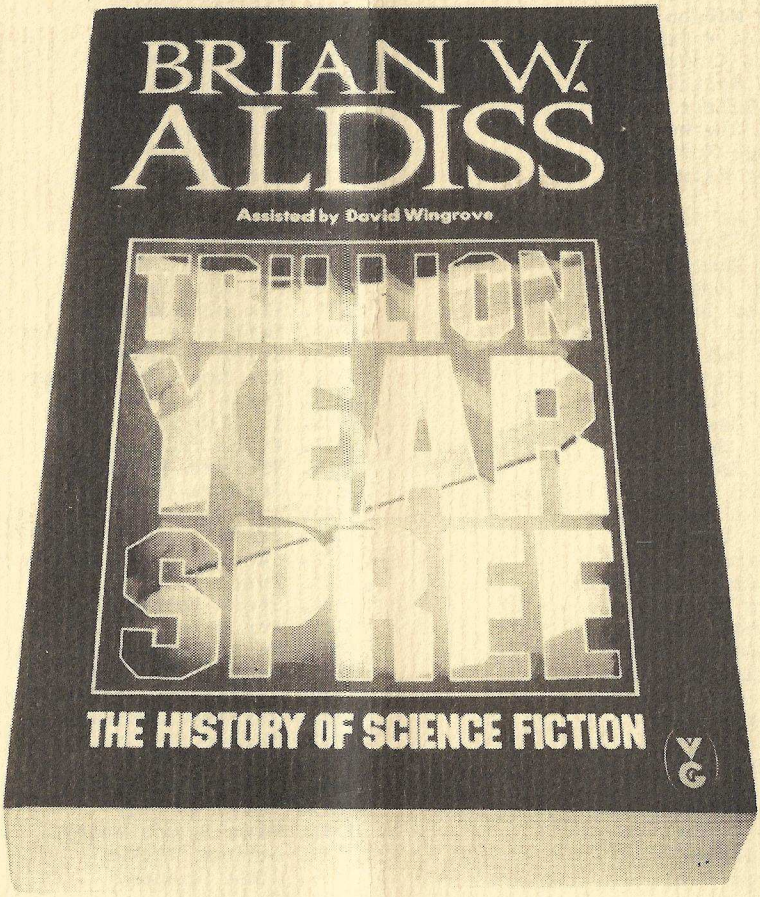

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